

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes for February 6, 2006

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Ron Sender, Ted Packard and Christopher Tonkin. Parris Kellerman and Pete Loshin also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The minutes of the January meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Discuss final plans for ABAC's Winter social scheduled for Thursday night February 16, Whittemore-Robbins House, Arlington Center. Jack confirmed that Andy Rubel will present a slide show on bikeway/map connections in the area. Jack will also make a presentation on behalf of ABAC. Scott will talk about good routes to Alewife station to use in the winter. Ron asked if John Allen is still a possible speaker. Linda Gutman will again provide hot cocoa this year and Bobby Mac will bring some goodies.

Review dates and plans for upcoming Bicycling Skills classes in Arlington. The introductory course will be presented on Friday March 24 and Thursday May 11. Pete told us of his positive experiences in one of these classes last week. Jack summarized his impressions.

Update on first "Bicycling in Arlington" column. The column written by Jack appeared on-line but not yet in the printed Advocate. There was yet another debate on the Arlington list about the topic of the article: "Should the Bike Path be plowed?"

ACTION ITEM: We've noticed new signs on the Bike Path at intersections and would like to discuss them with the DPW. Ron and Jack will plan to meet with John Sanchez sometime during the coming months.

Update on bicycling to school. Jack asked if Ted had gotten Lauren Hefferon's recent e-mail regarding Safe Routes to School grant. Scott showed us crash statistics comparing pedestrian/motor vehicle and bicycle/motor vehicle crash rates. They suggest that, nationally, the per-mile fatality rates may be similar, and that the pedestrian and bicycle overall crash rates are also similar for the Mass Ave /Route 60 intersection. Scott cautioned us about the uncertainty of the figures. Christopher told us that the traffic around the new Dallin school is worse than it was at the old school.

Local recognition for Rep. Anne Paulsen. Jack reported that Joey suggested some kind of special recognition. MassBike will honor her at the MassBike policy meeting on March 7. Parris suggested that Jack mention Rep. Paulsen's contributions in his next Advocate article.

ACTION ITEM: Jack asked Ron to invite Rep. Paulsen to the upcoming ABAC social.

General discussion. Scott suggested the possibility of striping in a parking lane on Mass. Ave. in East Arlington to make the traffic a bit more orderly. Jack told us that there is a proposal to pave the Reformatory Bike Trail which starts at the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford to the Concord town border. Jack reminded us that he will again be attending the National Bike Summit in Washington D.C. in early March.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

*Designates a vote was taken.

The minutes were taken and submitted by Stephan Miller.